



Oscar the Grouch and Dizzy Gillespie





FIRST DAY 123 OF ISSUE

SESAME STREET

DETROIT, MI 48233

JUNE 22, 2019

Oscar the Grouch is a furry, green Grouch who lives in a trash can on Sesame Street. In fact, he loves trash so much that he's rarely seen outside of his trash can. His trademark song, explaining his passion for refuse, is "I Love Trash." Like all Grouches, Oscar's mission in life is to be as miserable and grouchy as possible, and pass that feeling on to others. When a visitor knocks on his trash can - invariably interrupting him from a nap or an important task - Oscar greets them with a snarl. He complains that he wants to be left alone, although when he's left entirely to himself, he's dissatisfied - there isn't anybody around to irritate or complain to. John Birks "Dizzy" Gillespie (1917-1993) was an American jazz trumpeter. He made several guest appearances on Muppet-related shows including an episode on Sesame Street with Oscar the Grouch in 1984.

Dizzy Gillespie made several guest appearances on Muppet-related shows: He was the guest star in episode 413 of *The Muppet Show*, the *Ghost of Faffner Hall* episode "Reacting to Sounds" and *Sesame Street* episodes 2040 and 2071 (with Oscar the Grouch). When Gonzo plays a few notes of "Great Day" on the trumpet to finish out "The Muppet Show Theme" in episode 510, he quips, "Eat you heart out, Gillespie." While debating who should be included in an extension of a Bible quote in *John Denver & the Muppets: A Christmas Together*, Floyd Pepper, bass player for the Electric Mayhem band, suggests it be phrased, "peace on Earth, goodwill toward men and women and chickens and bears and Dizzy Gillespie." Gillespie was inducted into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame in 1982.

Abby Cadabby and Janelle Monáe





FIRST DAY 123 OF ISSUE

SESAME STREET

DETROIT, MI 48233

JUNE 22, 2019

Abby Cadabby is a four-year-old Muppet character on *Sesame Street*. In 2006, she made her debut in the first episode of the show's 37th season. Her name is a pun of the magic word Abracadabra. Abby's magical powers are limited to popping in and out of thin air, floating when she's happy, and turning things into pumpkins. Although familiar with the world of fairy tales, Abby is astounded by such basic learning skills as drawing letters or counting, prompting her catchphrase "That's so magical!" She frequently uses her wand cell phone to call her mommy. When she's asked to return home, she says that she's "gotta poof." Abby can speak a language called Dragonfly. Janelle Monáe appeared opposite Abby and other Muppets and performed a song about perseverance called "The Power Of Yet" in an episode during *Sesame Street*'s 45th season.

Janelle Monáe Robinson (b. 1985) is an R&B singer, songwriter, and an actor. Monáe has received eight Grammy Award nominations. She won an MTV Video Music Award and the ASCAP Vanguard Award in 2010. She also was honored with the Billboard Women in Music Rising Star Award in 2015 and the Trailblazer of the Year Award in 2018. In 2016, Monáe made her theatrical film debut in two high-profile productions; she starred in *Hidden Figures* as NASA mathematician and aerospace engineer Mary Jackson, and also starred in *Moonlight*. *Hidden Figures* was a box office success, while *Moonlight* won the Academy Award for Best Picture at the 89th annual ceremony.